

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01690 061456Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 /099 W

-----084765 070032Z /21

R 060915Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2401

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1690

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, RH, BC

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) GABORONE 1577, (B) GABORONE 1479

1. DURING RECENT CODEL HAYAKAWA VISIT, PRESIDENTIAL ADMINIS-  
TRATIVE SECRETARY CHARLES TIBONE TOLD US THAT NUMBER OF ZIM-  
BABWEAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA NOW EXCEEDS 10,000 AND IS STILL  
RAPIDLY INCREASING. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, MAY 31 FIGURES FOR  
REFUGEE POPULATIONS AT THE THREE CAMPS  
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

SELEBI-PIKWE 5,288

FRANCISTOWN 3,664

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PAGE 02 GABORO 01690 061456Z

MOSETSE/DUKWE 2,280

TOTAL 11,232

REFUGEES AT MOSETSE/DUKWE ARE STILL LIVING IN TENTS, BUT  
THEY WILL SOON BE ENCOURAGED TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF  
MORE PERMANENT HOUSING AS FIRST STEP IN THEIR RESETTLE-  
MENT.

2 ACCORDING TO TIBONE, GOB IS SO CONCERNED OVER REFUGEE BUILDUP THAT IT HAS TAKEN UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF PAYING FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS TAKING REFUGEES FROM BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA. TIBONE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOB IS DISCOURAGED BY HIGH COST OF CHARTERS AND INABILITY OF AIRLIFT TO KEEP PACE WITH NEW ARRIVALS. HE TOLD US THAT GOB HAS ASKED NKOMO TO DISCOURAGE POTENTIAL REFUGEES, BUT NKOMO REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE HAS ALREADY UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO REDUCE THE FLOW. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, NKOMO IS ALSO FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH REFUGEE POPULATION IN ZAMBIA.

3. COMMENT: UNPRECEDENTED RECENT INFLUX OF ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES APPEARS TO HAVE CONVINCED GOB THAT URGENT MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO HEAD OFF AN IMPENDING CRISIS. THE OPENING OF MOSETSE RESETTLEMENT CAMP AND GOB FUNDING OF CHARTER FLIGHTS WERE OFTEN CONSIDERED IN THE PAST BUT ALWAYS PREVIOUSLY REJECTED AS TOO EXPENSIVE OR INCONSISTENT WITH PRIMARY TASK OF PROVIDING MINIMUM LIFE SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN TRANSIT TO ZAMBIA. WITH REFUGEE POPULATION EXCEEDING 10,000 AND GROWING DAILY, GOB CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO VIEW REFUGEE PROBLEM AS AN EXPENSIVE AND IRRITATING DIVERSION FROM HIGHER PRIORITY CONCERNS. IT MUST NOW BE SEEN AS A GROWING THREAT TO THE VERY SECURITY AND STABILITY OF BOTSWANA WHICH COULD BE FIRST  
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PAGE 03 GABORO 01690 061456Z

STAGE OF FULL-SCALE SPILLOVER OF RHODESIAN CIVIL WAR INTO BOTSWANA.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GABORO01690  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GABORONE 1577, 78 GABORONE 1479  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2480751  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** SREF, RH, BC, ZA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014